

dedication to the City of Peoria. Ardis retired in 2021 as the longest serving Mayor in the history of the City, serving for 16 years. Prior to his 4 terms as Mayor, he also served on the City Council for 6 years. We thank Mayor Ardis for his tireless advocacy and dedication to move the City forward through times of prosperity and adversity. His unwavering commitment to the community is a testament to his perseverance and love for Peoria.

During his tenure, Peoria earned the unique distinction of being named an All-America City. Mayor Ardis led the effort to create a one-of-a-kind program called Peoria Promise, which gives all students in the City the opportunity to attend community college with tuition reimbursement. Mayor Ardis's leadership also helped to develop Peoria's warehouse district which has brought economic development to the area and transformed downtown. That effort has continued recently with OSF Health Care's new headquarters also coming to Downtown Peoria. His influence on the City of Peoria over the years is endless.

In addition, Jim is a caring person that has always generously given his time and resources to many charities and philanthropic efforts that help people. One shining example is his dedication to the St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run that raises money for children with cancer. Jim has dedicated his professional and personal life to the Peoria community and continues to do so now after his time as Mayor with his role at the OSF Foundation. I appreciate our friendship and his commitment to public service. I wish Jim great success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING JOSE ALVARADO AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jose Alvarado as Iowan of the Week. Jose has lived in Iowa for over two decades and over this time he has shown a clear commitment to improving the Latino community and Iowa as a whole. With a clear understanding of the issues facing the Latino community in Iowa, Jose has successfully implemented community-oriented solutions.

Jose founded the LatinX Immigrants of Iowa organization in 2016 to help people. With the Latino population of Iowa continuing to grow, organizations such as Jose's have taken on increased importance. LatinX Immigrants of Iowa has been able to provide legal, financial, and civic programs. Lawsuits and mortgages/leases can be quite technical ordeals, and any language barrier only makes for a more complicated situation. Jose recognized this issue, and the organization he founded ensures that no Latino individual is left behind.

Over the past 2 years, the organization has been on the front lines in COVID-19 response. Jose and his organization recognized the need for more Spanish-specific COVID-19 information and community vaccination clinics. Leveraging the organization's resources and connections, LatinX Immigrants of Iowa was able to vaccinate approximately 1,600 individuals in the Des Moines area from COVID-19 in a comfortable and familiar setting. While

this is already an impressive accomplishment, Jose plans to put on another vaccine clinic event in January as well. Ensuring that COVID-19 information is shared with all people is a crucial part of how we can effectively curtail COVID-19 transmission, and I'm thankful for Jose and LatinX Immigrants of Iowa's efforts to cover the Latino community in this critical time.

Jose and LatinX Immigrants of Iowa also organize large community gathering events. These events promote Latino heritage and community-building in Central Iowa. This year, the organization put on a successful Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration in Des Moines with the goal to make it as authentic as possible. As Jose turns towards 2022, they will kick off the new year with a Día de los Reyes Magos (3 King's Day) celebration, which is a popular holiday for the Latino community. These events, in addition to regularly scheduled education classes, help ensure that Latinos know that there is a place for them in Iowa.

Jose strengthens Iowa's community through his dedicated public service. I look forward to following him and his organization as they continue to move forward serving the community, and I am proud to name Jose Alvarado as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF VICE ADMIRAL PAUL FREDERICK FOSTER, USN

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the passing of Vice Admiral Paul Frederick Foster, USN. Over his distinguished 23-year career in the United States Navy, Vice Admiral Foster became the first naval officer to be awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, and our Nation's highest military distinction, the Medal of Honor.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, the son of a Congregationalist minister, he spent his early years traveling the west with his father, living in Kansas, Utah, Oklahoma, and Idaho before his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. At the academy, he reached the rank of cadet commander and served as commander of the Midshipmen Battalion. Upon graduation in 1911, he was assigned to various postings in the Caribbean Sea. In 1914, then-Ensign Foster took part in the Battle of Veracruz during the United States' intervention against Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. At the head of his company, he led his sailors ashore during the fighting on April 21 and 22, 1914. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership, heroism, and courage under enemy fire. His commendation cites that "Ens. Foster was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage".

Upon his return to the United States in 1915, Vice Admiral Foster became one of the first American naval officers to undergo submarine instruction. He served as executive officer on the experimental submarine G-4 and participated in maneuvers along the Eastern

Seaboard. When the United States joined the Allies in World War I, Vice Admiral Foster was sent to England and served on U.S. Submarine L-2. In 1918, he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his part in sinking one of the three enemy submarines sunk during the war.

After World War I, he returned to peacetime duty back in the United States. In 1924, during a training accident on the USS *Trenton*, with total disregard for his safety, Vice Admiral Foster entered a burning gun turret and extinguished the fire both inside the turret and on the clothing of the crew members, saving their lives. For this act of valor, he was decorated with the Navy Cross. He retired from active duty in 1929 but remained a member of the Navy Reserve.

Vice Admiral Foster was recalled to active duty in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor. President Franklin D. Roosevelt directly tasked him to conduct special naval inspections worldwide during the Second World War. As Assistant Inspector General of the Navy, Vice Admiral Foster examined bases across the globe, overseeing operations and ensuring the security, effectiveness, and safety of U.S. naval operations in North America, Europe, and the Pacific. He received the Legion of Merit and Navy Commendation Medal for his essential service. He retired from the Navy fully in October 1946 with the rank of vice admiral.

The end of his military service did not mark the end of his career in public service. In 1954, Vice Admiral Foster was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to be the assistant general manager for international activities at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and later general manager of the commission, advancing the United States' peaceful pursuit of atomic power. Finally, in 1959, President Eisenhower appointed him permanent U.S. representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, furthering U.S. leadership in managing the peacetime development of atomic science and technology through the "Atoms for Peace" initiative. During his service in Vienna, he had the opportunity to meet with several world leaders, including Pope John XXIII. After retiring in 1961, Vice Admiral Foster settled in Virginia Beach. He passed away on Jan. 30, 1972, at the age of 82. In a tribute to his years of service, the Spruance-class destroyer USS *Paul F. Foster* was named in his honor in 1976. A true American hero, Vice Admiral Foster's legacy lives on through his family, friends, and commitment to service to his country. I hope the rest of my colleagues will join me in honoring his memory on the 50th anniversary of his passing on Jan. 30, 2022.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL "MIKE" K. SHIELDS OF THE BAYTOWN-WEST CHAMBERS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael "Mike" K. Shields for his outstanding service to the City of Baytown and